

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-40, and 43-47 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30, 33, 34, and 43-47 have been amended. Claims 13, 14, 27, 28, 41, 42, and 48 were previously withdrawn. FIGS. 1 and 2(a)-2(d) have been amended to correct the illustrated reference numbers. Several paragraphs of the specification have been amended to correct minor inconsistencies and grammatical and spelling errors. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Objections to the drawings, specification, and claims

In the February 10, 2006 Office Action the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for having reference numbers 21 and 46 shown in the drawings but not described in the specification. Applicants have deleted reference 46 from FIG. 1 and amended reference 21 to reference number 22 in FIGS. 2(a)-2(d), as shown on the attached marked-up FIGS. 1 and 2(a)-2(d). Applicants have also attached replacement sheets of FIGS. 1 and 2(a)-2(d). Accordingly, Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Examiner's objection to the drawings is obviated.

The Examiner objected to the specification as containing minor reference number errors and other minor inconsistencies. The Examiner provided several suggestions as to how the paragraphs objected to by the Examiner should be amended. Applicants have amended several paragraphs substantially in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and have also made other minor amendments of typographical and spelling errors. Accordingly, Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Examiner's objections to the specification have been obviated.

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2, 15, 15, 29, 30, and 43-47 as containing informalities and provided suggestions as to how the claims should be amended. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 15, 15, 29, 30, and 43-47 substantially in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and respectfully submit that the Examiner's objections to claims 1, 2, 15, 15, 29, 30, and 43-47 have been obviated.

35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 claim rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-40, and 43-47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner alleged

that claims 1, 15, 29, and 43-47 contain limitations reciting that a “slide mounting assembly is moved into a first and a second position, depending if the electrically operated unit is energized or not.” [Office Action, P. 8] The Examiner further alleged that “[a]ccording to Figures 2(a) and 2(b), the element that is displaced is the locking plate 42, not the frame 43.”

Applicants agree that the locking plate may be placed in a first position and in a second position of the slide mounting assembly. Applicants have amended claims 1, 15, 29, and 43-47 to recite that the locking plate, not the slide mounting assembly, may be placed in the first position and in the second position of the slide mounting assembly. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 15, 29, and 43-47 meet the enablement requirement. Claims 2-12, 16-26, and 30-40 depend from claims 1, 15, and 29, respectively, and therefore also meet the enablement requirement. Thus, Applicants submit that the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-40, and 43-47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 has been traversed, and should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 claim rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-40, and 43-47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argued that:

“Claims 1, 15, 29 and 43-47 recite[] that the mounting of the slide mounting assembly in the first position of the slide mounting assembly places the at least one locking finger in a position to engage that at least one engageable member when the electrically operated sliding unit is deenergized and the mounting of the slide mounting assembly in the second position of the slide mounting assembly places the at least one locking finger in a position to engage the at least one engageable member when the electrically operated sliding unit is energized.”

[Office Action, P. 9.]

The Examiner further argued that it was “unclear how the slide mounting assembly is mounted in the first position and second positions of the slide mounting assembly.”

Applicants have amended claims 1, 15, 29, and 43-47 to recite that the *locking plate*, not the slide mounting assembly itself, is mounted in the first and second positions of the slide mounting assembly. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 15, 29, and 43-47 are not indefinite. Claims 2-12, 16-26, and 30-40 depend from claims 1, 15, and 29, respectively,

and therefore also meet the definiteness requirement . Thus, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-12, 15-26, 29-40, and 43-47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 has been traversed, and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Chicago telephone number (312) 577-7000 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend FIGS. 1 and 2(a)-2(d) as shown in red on the attached marked-up drawings. Applicants have also attached replacement drawings. Specifically, FIG. 1 has been amended to delete reference 46, and FIGS. 2(a)-2(d) have been amended to replace reference number 21 with reference number 22.

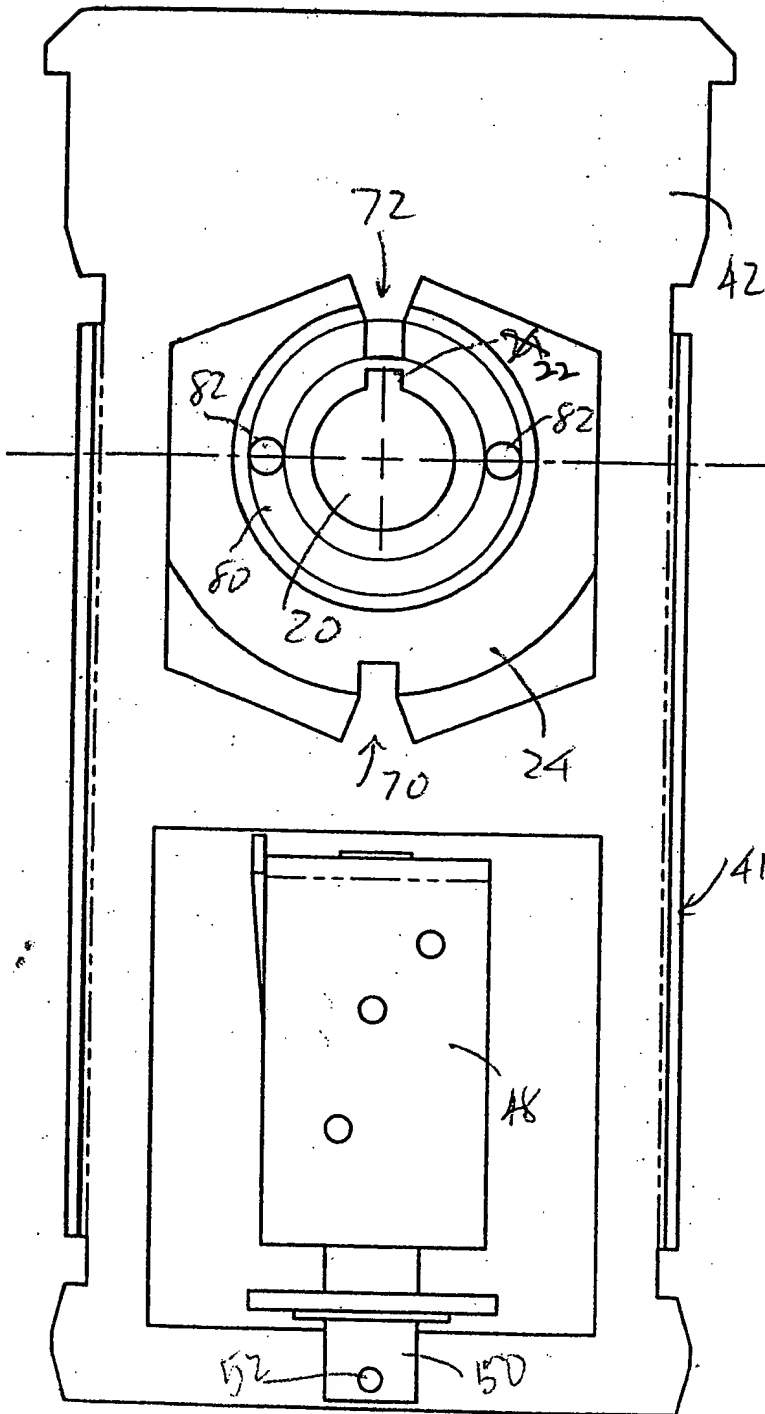


FIG 2(a)
LOCK OFF

Amended Drawings
Showing Changes

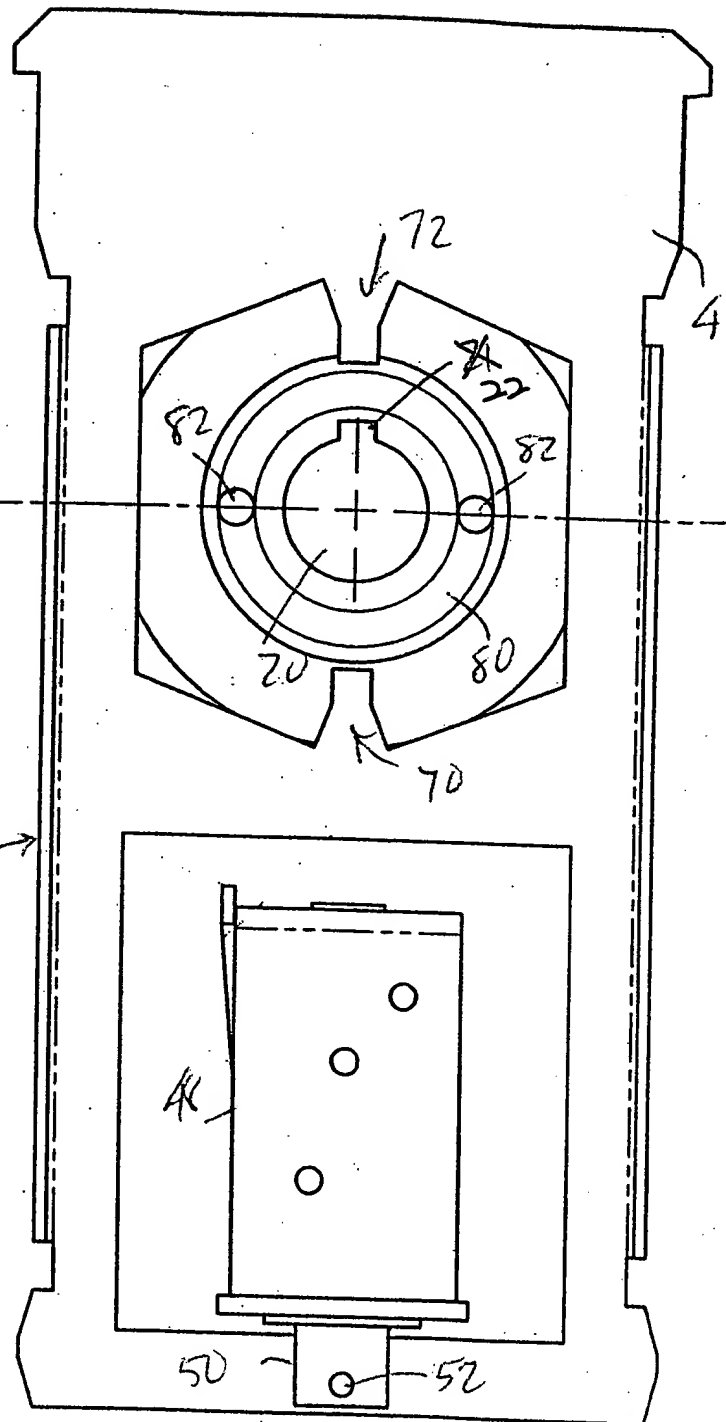
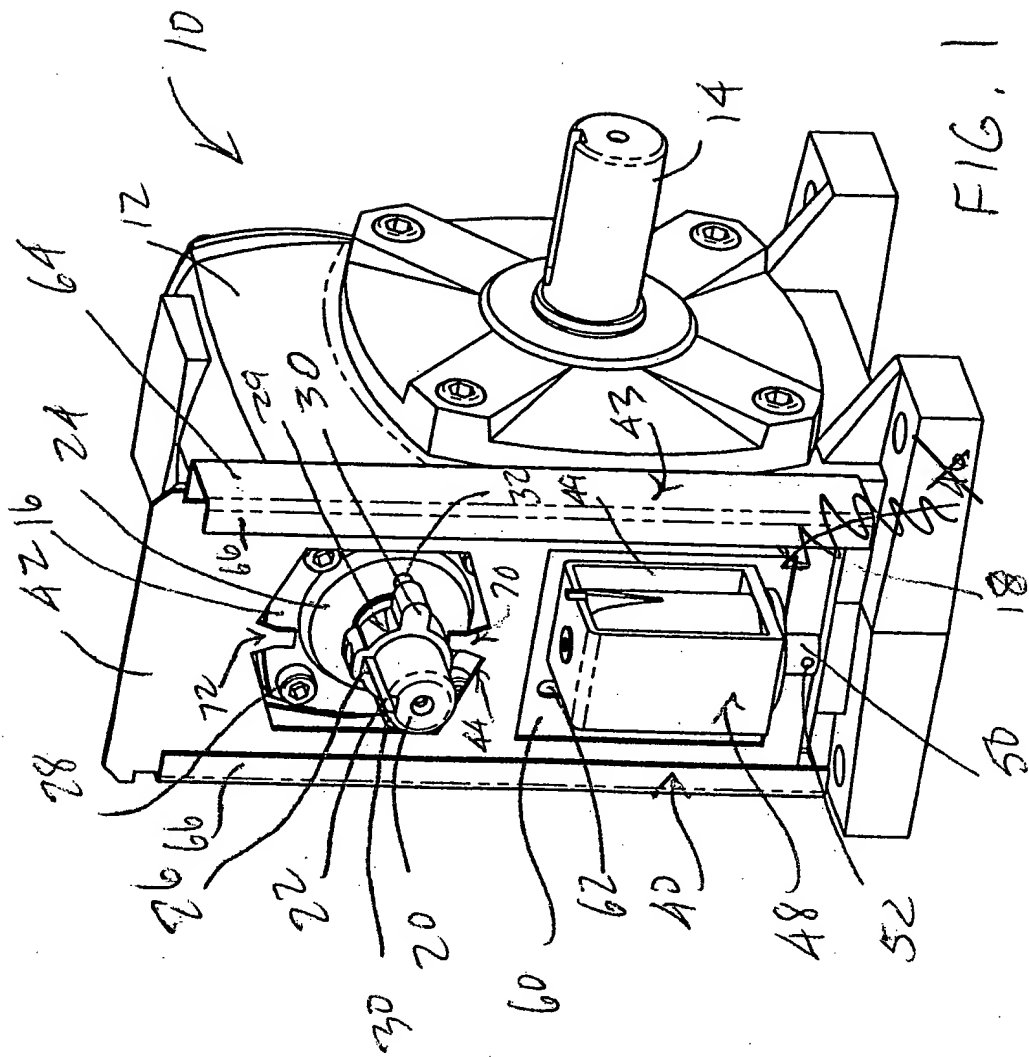


FIG 2(b)
UNLOCK ON

LOCKED DURING POWER FAILURE



Amended Drawing
Showing Changes

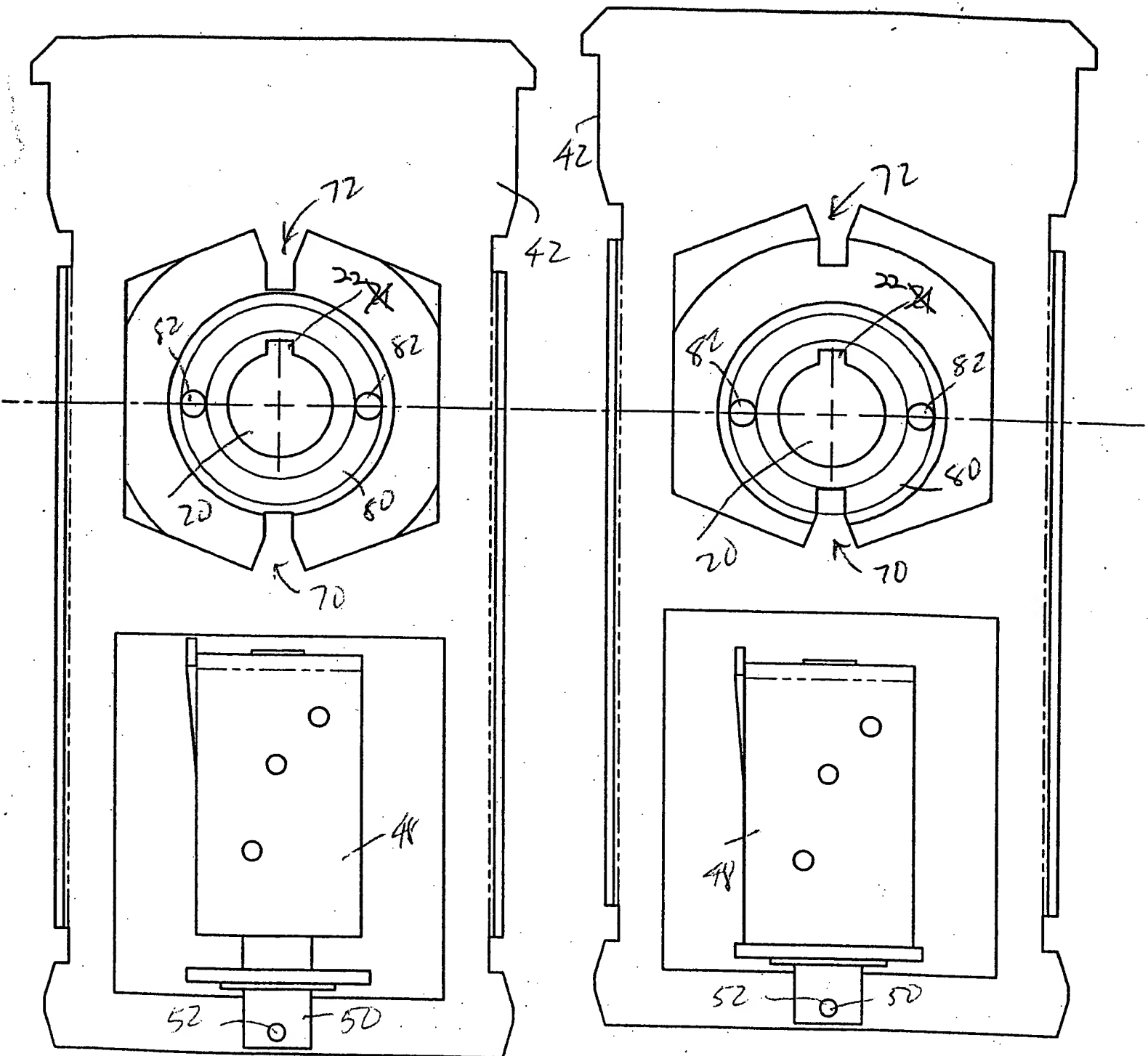


FIG. 2(c)
UNLOCK OFF

Amended Drawings
Showing Changes

FIG. 2(d)
LOCK ON

UNLOCKED DURING POWER FAILURE

does it turn
at power on?